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AUBURN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POULTRY SCIENCE



WORTHWHILE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS

NCC Petition for the Wavier of Line Speed Limitations

The National Chicken Council submitted a petition on September 1, 2017 to the USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service to request that FSIS permit waivers for the maximum line speed rates in young chicken slaughter establishments. See wavier [here](#).

Proposed waiver requirements:

1. Establishment must participate in both the New Poultry Inspection System (NPIS) and the *Salmonella* Initiative Program (SIP).
2. Establishment must develop a plan to monitor and ensure process control and provide corrective actions to regain process control at the chosen line speed.
3. Allow establishment to operate at any line speed at which process control can be maintained.

Proposed benefits:

1. More establishments will be encouraged to participate in NPIS.
2. Food safety will not be compromised.
3. USDA-FSIS agency and industry efficiency will be promoted and enhanced.
4. Eliminate competitive barriers between the United States and international chicken producers.

The current maximum line speed in the United States for NPIS is 140 birds per minute (bpm) while establishments under the HACCP Inspection Models Program (HIMP) can operate up to 175 bpm. Some broiler processing plants in other countries operate at speeds greater than 200 bpm. The comment period opened on October 13, 2017 and will end December 13, 2017. As of November 19, 2017, 17,073 comments have been received regarding this petition. For those commenters against the petition, animal welfare appears to be of greatest concern. See comments [here](#).



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